

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 13, 18, 19, and 24 and therefore, upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-27 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the application.

Claims 19-23 were objected to because of certain formalities. Applicants have amended Claim 19 as suggested by Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection of Claim 19, along with dependent Claims 20-23, be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 9, 13, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended Claims 5, 6, 9, 13, and 18 to clarify the claims, as shown above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of Claims 6, 9, 13, and 18 be withdrawn. Furthermore, the following remarks regarding distinctions over the prior art do not apply to the just-described claims.

Claims 1-3, 7, 10, 13-17, and 19-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Japanese Application Patent (JP 06-301096) [herein referred to as "the JP

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reference"] in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,589,901 to Means [herein referred to as "Means"].

The JP reference, according to its abstract and Fig. 1, appears to be directed to a video camera (1) having "an adapter (3) for positioning and holding a film (2) provided with a lens." Specifically, the JP reference sets forth in its abstract that by "attaching the film 2 at a specified position on the adapter 3 and attaching the adapter 3 at a specified position on a video camera main body 1, the optical axis of the film 2 becomes nearly parallel with the optical axis of the video camera." Furthermore, the JP reference sets forth a purpose of providing "a video camera capable of easily taking a photograph even in the midst of video recording with very simple constitution."

Thus, the JP reference appears to be directed to a video camera 1 having a film 2 (or camera) attached to it by the adapter 3 so that a still photo may be taken on the camera at the same time and in the same direction as the video camera that is recording video images. Consequently, the JP reference simply illustrates a mechanical coupling for attaching one camera to another, while the other cited reference, Means, discloses an infrared camera mounted on a helicopter (col. 5, lns. 50-65, Fig. 1).

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In contrast, in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention, an interface device is disclosed that couples a camera that captures video images in the non-visible electromagnetic spectrum to a camcorder such that the camcorder can selectively record the video images from the camera and/or provide power or control signals to the camera. Consequently, neither the JP reference nor Means, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "a mechanical interconnect adapted to couple the camera to the camcorder and further adapted to provide power to the camera via the hot shoe, wherein a portable video imaging system is formed" as recited in Claim 1, "an interface device that mechanically and electrically connects said camera to said camcorder such that the camcorder selectively records the video images in the visible or non-visible electromagnetic spectrum" as recited in Claim 19, or "mechanically and electrically securing said camera to said camcorder, wherein a portable video imaging system is formed, with the camcorder selectively recording the video images in the non-visible electromagnetic spectrum" as recited in Claim 24.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 19, and 24 patentably distinguish over the JP reference in view of Means and that corresponding dependent Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 13-17, 20-23, and 25-27 are also distinguishable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully

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request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 1-3, 7, 10, 13-17, and 19-27 be withdrawn.

Applicants note that "Official Notice" was taken with respect to a number of claims. Applicants further note that MPEP § 2144.03 indicates that official notice should be used only in limited circumstances and request that Examiner provide documentary evidence for the official notices if the rejections are to be maintained. Specifically, applicants challenge the official notice taken with respect to a video cable, a plurality of posts, wire as a power connection, a control cable, and a plurality of fasteners between a camera and a camcorder, when the cited prior art does not illustrate the camera and the camcorder combination as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-27 are in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested and a timely Notice of Allowance is solicited.

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If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the application, please call the undersigned at (949) 752-7040.

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Respectfully submitted,



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